Retirees/ Disability Retirees

Retirees/Disability Retirees

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Benefits for Retirees

Benefits available to you in retirement are the focus of this chapter. It is designed to provide useful information to eligible participants in the state insurance program who are considering retirement or who have already retired. For more detailed information on specific programs, please refer to the previous chapters in this guide. If you have questions or need additional information about your insurance, contact EIP through our Web site at www.eip.sc.gov or call 803-734-0678 (Greater Columbia area) or at 888-260-9430 (toll-free outside the Columbia area).

RETIREE INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Retirees from employers that participate in the state insurance program are eligible for insurance coverage if they retire:

- Due to years of service with a participating state insurance employer
- Due to age
- On approved disability through the S.C. Retirement Systems (SCRS) or on approved Basic Long Term Disability and/or Supplemental Long Term Disability.

To qualify for the retiree group insurance program as either a nonfunded or a funded retiree, your last five years of employment must be served consecutively, with an employer that participates in the Employee Insurance Program, and in a full-time, permanent position. For more information about state retirement eligibility, call 803-737-6800 (Greater Columbia area) or 800-868-9002 (toll-free outside the Columbia area but within South Carolina) or visit the S.C. Retirement Systems Web site at www.retirement.sc.gov.

Additional service credit for unused sick leave may not be used to qualify for the retiree group insurance program.

Please note: Whether you are a funded or a non-funded retiree, the following does not count toward your 10- or 20-year eligibility requirement: non-qualified, federal, military, out-of-state employment, unused sick leave or service with employers that do not participate in the state insurance program.

Funded vs. Non-funded Retiree Insurance Premiums

If you are a state or school district retiree and qualify for funded benefits, the state will contribute to your premiums to the same extent it contributes to the premiums of an active employee.

Local subdivisions may or may not pay a portion of the cost of their retirees' group insurance premium. Each local subdivision develops its own policy for funding retiree insurance premiums.

A *local subdivision* is a public employer in South Carolina that falls within one of the categories established by Section 1-11-720 of the 1976 S.C. Code of Laws, as amended, and participates in the state insurance program. If you are a local subdivision employee, contact your benefits office for information about retiree insurance premiums.

Optional Retirement Program (ORP)

State Optional Retirement Program retirees must meet the same insurance eligibility guidelines as SCRS participants.

Funded Retirees

Funded retirees are those whose employer contributes to their retiree insurance premiums and whose last five years of employment were continuous and consecutive in a permanent, full-time position with an employer that

participates in the state insurance program. They must fall into one of these categories:

• Employees who leave employment when they are eligible to retire and have at least 10 years of earned S.C. Retirement Systems (SCRS) service credit with an employer that participates in the state insurance program.

• Employees who leave employment before they are eligible to retire and who have at least 20 years of earned SCRS service credit with an employer that participates in the state insurance program. These employees are not eligible for insurance coverage until age 60 when they are eligible to receive a retirement check.

For information on eligibility requirements for dependents and adding them to your coverage, see page 12.

• **An exception:** Employees who left employment before 1990 and who were not eligible to retire, but who had 18 years of earned SCRS service credit and returned to work with a state-covered group, enrolled in a state health and dental plan, and worked for at least two consecutive years in a full-time, permanent position.

Non-funded Retirees

Non-funded retirees are those who do not quality for funded benefits (see previous rules) and who must pay the full premium, which includes the retiree share plus the state contribution. It may also include an administrative fee. To qualify, a retiree's last five years of employment must have been continuous and consecutive in a permanent, full-time position with an employer that participates in the state insurance program. Non-funded retirees include:

- Employees who retire at age 55 with at least 25 years of retirement service credit (including at least 10 years of earned service credit with an employer that participates in the state insurance program). You must pay the full insurance premium until you reach age 60 or the date you would have had 28 years of service credit, whichever occurs first. Although sick leave may increase service credit under SCRS, retirees must pay the entire premium until age 60 or until they reach the date they would have had 28 years of service credit if they had continued working. At the end of this period, you will be eligible for funded retiree rates. This rule does not apply to Police Officers Retirement System, General Assembly Retirement System and Judges-Solicitors Retirement System participants. If you are in one of these groups, contact your benefits office for additional information. If you are retiring from a local subdivision, contact your benefits administrator for premium information.
- Employees who are eligible to retire and have at least five but fewer than 10 years of earned SCRS service credit with a participating state insurance program employer.
- General Assembly members who leave office or retire with at least eight years of General Assembly Retirement System service credit.
- Former municipal and county council members who served on council for at least 12 years and were covered under the state's plans when they left the council. It is up to the county or municipal council to decide whether or not to allow former members to have this coverage.

TERI

If you are a Teacher and Employee Retention Incentive program (TERI) participant in a permanent, full-time position, your insurance benefits as an active employee continue. When your active insurance benefits end, you must apply for continuation of your insurance benefits as a retiree (if eligible) within 31 days of your date of termination. Your service as a TERI participant in a full-time, permanent position with a participating insurance program employer may be applied toward retiree insurance eligibility.

If you are not eligible for insurance as a retiree, you may still be eligible for continuation coverage under COBRA (see page 16).

WHEN TO ENROLL

Your insurance will not be automatically continued when you retire. In addition to completing your paperwork with the S.C. Retirement Systems, you must contact EIP within 31 days of the date of your retirement

to arrange for your retiree insurance. Please visit our office in Suite 300, 1201 Main St., Columbia, if you would like to see an EIP representative. You may also request a retiree insurance enrollment packet by calling 803-734-0678 (Greater Columbia area) or 888-260-9430 (toll-free outside the Columbia area) or print forms from the EIP Web site, www.eip.sc.gov.

HOW TO ENROLL

If you are an eligible retiree, you must enroll by filing a Retiree Notice of Election (NOE) form within 31 days of:

- Your retirement date or
- The end of your TERI period or
- Approval for disability retirement or approved Basic and/or Supplemental Long Term Disability benefits or
- A special eligibility situation.

You may enroll yourself and any eligible dependents.

If you and/or your eligible dependents are **not covered by a state health plan** at the time of your retirement, you may enroll within 31 days of:

- Your retirement date or
- The end of your TERI period or
- A special eligibility situation.

A *special eligibility situation* is a qualifying event that allows eligible employees and retirees, to enroll in an insurance plan. Enrollment changes must be requested within 31 days of the *qualifying event*.

Examples of a *qualifying event* include: marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption. Involuntary loss of other coverage is a qualifying event only for those who lost coverage.

You will be subject to pre-existing limitations for 12 months. Proof of creditable coverage may be used to reduce a pre-existing condition limitation period, if any break in coverage did not exceed 62 days. Those enrolling who have had a break in health coverage of more than 62 days will be subject to pre-existing condition exclusions for 12 months.

Late Entrant

If you and/or your dependents do not enroll within 31 days of retirement, disability approval or a special eligibility situation, you may enroll as a late entrant during an open enrollment period held in October of every odd-numbered year (e.g., October 2007). Your coverage will take effect on the following January 1 (e.g., January 1, 2008), but, as a late entrant, your coverage will be subject to pre-existing condition limitations for 18 months. Proof of creditable coverage may be used to reduce a pre-existing limitation period, if any break in coverage did not exceed 62 days.

YOUR HEALTH PLAN CHOICES AS A RETIREE

Not Eligible for Medicare

If you and your covered dependents are not eligible for Medicare, you may be covered under one of these plans:

- The SHP Savings Plan (You may contribute to an HSA, but not through MoneyPlu\$.)
- The SHP Standard Plan
- An HMO offered in the county where you live (See page 58 for counties where each HMO is available.)
- The TRICARE Supplement, if eligible.

Please note: If the retiree is not eligible for Medicare but the spouse is, the retiree can enroll in the Savings Plan and contribute to an HSA.

Your health benefits will be the same as if you were an active employee. Refer to the previous chapters of this guide for details.

Eligible for Medicare

If you and/or your covered dependents are eligible for Medicare, you may be covered under one of these plans:

- The SHP Standard Plan
- The SHP Medicare Supplemental Plan
- An HMO offered in the county where you live. (See page 58 for counties where each HMO is available.)

This section provides details on the benefits available to you. Please note that if you are eligible for Medicare, you may not enroll in the TRICARE Supplement or the SHP Savings Plan, and you cannot contribute to the Health Savings Account associated with the Savings Plan.

WHEN YOUR COVERAGE AS A RETIREE BEGINS

If you go directly from active employment to retirement, your coverage remains in effect. However, you still have to enroll as a retiree. If you are enrolling due to a special eligibility situation, your effective date will be either the date of the qualifying event or the first of the month after the qualifying event. If you enroll during open enrollment your coverage will be effective the following January 1.

Retiree Premiums and Premium Payment

State Agency, Higher Education and School District Retirees

Your health, State Dental Plan, Dental Plus and Long Term Care premiums are deducted from your monthly SCRS retirement check. If the total premiums exceed the amount of your check, EIP will bill you directly for the full amount, or you may request a bank draft. Your first insurance premiums may be due before your retirement has been processed. For that reason, you may be billed for these premiums. All premiums are due on the 10th of the month. If you do not pay this bill, the amount will be deducted, along with other insurance premiums that may come due, from your retirement check.

Local Subdivision Retirees

You pay your health, State Dental Plan, Dental Plus and Long Term Care premiums directly to your former employer. That employer decides what portion of the premium it will pay. Contact your benefits office for information concerning your insurance premiums at retirement.

Your Insurance Identification Card in Retirement

Keep your identification card if you do not change plans when you retire. You and your covered dependents will not receive new ID cards at retirement if you remain covered under any SHP option or the State Dental Plan and Dental Plus. You will receive a new health identification card if you are changing from an HMO to any SHP option or vice versa and/or if you enroll in the State Dental Plan or Dental Plus for the first time. If your card is lost, stolen or damaged, you may request a new card from EIP or from these third-party administrators:

- State Health Plan BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
- HMO CIGNA HealthCare, BlueChoice HealthPlan or MUSC Options
- Dental Plus BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
- TRICARE Supplement DEERS for a military I.D. card, ASI for a TRICARE Supplement card.

Contact information for the third-party administrators is on the inside cover of this guide.

Decreasing Coverage

You may decrease your health and/or dental coverage if a spouse or dependent child becomes ineligible. This may occur because of divorce or separation, a child turns 19 and is no longer a full-time student, a child turns

25, a child marries or a child is no longer principally dependent (more than 50 percent) on you for support. If you drop a dependent from your coverage, you must complete an NOE within 31 days of the date he becomes ineligible. If you participate in TRICARE, please remember coverage for a dependent child under the TRICARE Supplement ends at age 21 unless he is a full-time student. If he is a full-time student, it ends at age 23.

WHEN COVERAGE ENDS

Your coverage will end:

- The day after your death
- The date it ends for all employees and retirees
- If you do not pay the required premium when it is due.

Dependent coverage will end:

- The date your coverage ends
- The date dependent coverage is no longer offered
- The last day of the month your dependent is no longer eligible for coverage. If your dependent's coverage ends, he may be eligible for continuation of coverage under COBRA (see page 16).

If you are dropping a dependent from your coverage, you must complete an NOE within 31 days of the date the dependent is no longer eligible for coverage.

Death of a Retiree

If a retiree dies a surviving family member should contact EIP to report the death, end the retiree's health coverage and begin survivor coverage (if applicable). See page 17 for more information on survivor coverage.

When You or Your Dependents

Become Eligible for Medicare

About Medicare

Medicare includes Part A, Part B and Part D. To find out more about it:

- Visit the Medicare Web site at <u>www.medicare.gov</u>.
- Call Medicare at 800-633-4227 or 877-486-2048 (TTY).

Medicare Part A

Part A is your hospital insurance. Most people do not pay a premium for Part A because they or their spouse paid Medicare taxes while they were working. Part A helps cover your inpatient care in hospitals, in critical access hospitals in rural areas and in skilled nursing facilities. It also covers hospice care and some home healthcare. You must meet certain requirements to be eligible for Part A. Contact Medicare for additional information.

Medicare Part B

Part B is your medical insurance. Most people do pay a premium through the Social Security Administration for Part B. It helps cover doctors' services and outpatient hospital care. It also covers some medical services that Part A does not cover, such as some of the services of physical and occupational therapists and home healthcare. Part B pays for these covered services and supplies when they are medically necessary.

IMPORTANT MEDICARE NOTE

If you or one of your dependents become eligible for Medicare due to age or disability, you must notify EIP within 31 days of eligibility. If you do not notify EIP of your Medicare eligibility, and EIP continues to pay benefits as if it were your primary insurance, when EIP discovers you are eligible for Medicare, EIP will:

- Begin paying benefits as if you were enrolled in Medicare.
- Seek reimbursement for overpaid claims back to the date you or your dependent(s) became eligible for Medicare.

When you become eligible for Medicare, it is important to be enrolled in Part B if you are covered as a retiree or as a dependent of a retiree. Medicare becomes your primary insurance, and the State Health Plan becomes the secondary payer. If you are not enrolled in Part B, your claims reimbursement will be limited for the Medicare Part B services you receive.

Medicare Part D

Part D, the prescription drug plan, became effective January 1, 2006. However, most subscribers covered by the Standard Plan, the Medicare Supplemental Plan or the health maintenance organizations offered through the Employee Insurance Program (EIP) should not sign up for Medicare Part D.

The prescription drug benefit you have through your health plan is as good as, or better than, Part D for most people. Because you have this coverage, your drug expenses will continue to be reimbursed through your health insurance. Before you turn 65 and become eligible for Medicare, you will receive a letter from EIP officially notifying you that you do not need to sign up for Part D. There is a copy of the letter on pages 219-220.

If you are enrolled in Medicare Part D, you lose the prescription drug coverage provided by your health plan with EIP. However, the premium for your health plan will not be reduced.

You may have heard that if you do not sign up for Part D when you are first eligible—then later do so—you will have to pay higher premiums for Part D. For EIP subscribers, this is not true. According to Medicare rules, Medicare recipients who have "creditable coverage" (drug coverage that is as good as, or better than, Part D) and who later decide to sign up for Part D, will not be penalized by higher Part D premiums. Subscribers to the health plans offered through EIP have credible coverage. However, please save your Notice of Creditable Coverage letter from EIP in case you need to prove you had this coverage when you became eligible for Part D.

Please do not respond to information you may get from Medicare or advertisements from companies asking you to buy Part D prescription drug plans.

Please remember:

Medicare Part D does not affect your need to enroll in Medicare Part B (medical insurance). As a retiree covered under EIP's insurance, you must enroll in Part A and Part B when you become eligible for Medicare due to a disability or due to age. If you are not enrolled in both parts of Medicare, your claims reimbursement for Part B services will be limited.

Medicare Before Age 65: Disability Retirees and End-Stage Renal Disease

If you or your spouse become eligible for Medicare before age 65 due to disability, including end-stage renal disease (ESRD), **you must notify EIP within 31 days of Medicare eligibility.** When you notify EIP, please submit a copy of your Medicare card.

When you become eligible for Medicare, **you should enroll in Medicare Part B,** which helps cover doctors' services and outpatient hospital care. EIP will begin paying your claims as if you were enrolled in Part B, even if you are not.

Medicare At 65

You should be notified of Medicare eligibility by the Social Security Administration three months before you reach age 65. If you are not notified, contact your local Social Security office. If you are already receiving Social Security benefits when you turn 65, Medicare Part A starts automatically and, if you are retired, you should enroll in Part B. If you are not receiving Social Security, you should sign up for Medicare close to your 65th birthday. You should also notify EIP and submit a copy of your Medicare card.

If You Are an Active Employee

If you are actively working and/or covered under a state health plan for active employees, you do not need to sign up for Part B because your insurance as an active employee remains primary while you are actively working. However, if you are planning to retire within three months of age 65, you should contact the Social Security Administration concerning your enrollment options. Keep in mind that when you retire you must sign up for Part B within 31 days of retirement because Medicare becomes your primary coverage.

Sign up for Medicare

You must enroll in both Part A and Part B of Medicare to receive full benefits with any state-offered retiree group health plan. If you are not enrolled in both parts of Medicare, your claims reimbursement for Part B services will be reduced.

How Medicare Assignment Works

Under Medicare assignment, the Medicare subscriber agrees to have Medicare's share of the cost of services paid directly ("assigned") to a provider. Participating providers have agreed to submit all of their Medicare claims on an assigned basis. Non-participating providers may choose whether to accept assignment on each individual claim. If you receive services from a non-participating physician, ask if he will accept assignment.

Each year, doctors and suppliers have the opportunity to participate in the Medicare program. Those that participate will always accept the Medicare-approved amount as payment in full. Some doctors accept assignment; some do not. If a doctor does not accept assignment, you may end up paying more for his services.

If a doctor decides to participate, he cannot drop out in the middle of the year. Independent laboratories and doctors who perform diagnostic laboratory services and non-physician practitioners must accept assignment.

AS A RETIREE ELIGIBLE FOR

MEDICARE, YOU HAVE ANOTHER OPTION

When you and/or your eligible dependents are covered under retiree group health insurance and become eligible for Medicare, Medicare becomes the primary payer, and your health options change. Before you turn 65, EIP will send you a letter offering you and your eligible dependents a choice of the Standard Plan, the Medicare Supplemental Plan or a health maintenance organization offered in the county where you live. If you are covered by the Standard Plan or the Savings Plan, you will be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Supplemental Plan unless you respond to the letter by choosing another plan. Coverage changes must be made within 31 days of Medicare eligibility.

If you are enrolled in the Medicare Supplemental Plan, the claims of your eligible dependent(s) without Medicare are paid through the Standard Plan's provisions.

The Savings Plan and the TRICARE Supplement are not available to you if you are retired and eligible for Medicare.

Your Plan Choices

When you become eligible for Medicare due to age or disability, you must notify EIP within 31 days. Because you have become eligible for Medicare, your health insurance options are the Medicare Supplemental Plan, the Standard Plan, CIGNA HealthCare HMO, BlueChoice HealthPlan or MUSC Options. (To enroll in an HMO, you must live within the HMO's service area.) The Savings Plan and the TRICARE Supplement are not available to you when you are eligible for Medicare.

If you do wish to elect the Medicare Supplemental Plan, you must do so within 31 days of eligibility or you will have to wait until the next enrollment period. If you were covered by the Standard Plan or the Savings Plan before you became eligible

for Medicare, you will be automatically assigned to the Medicare Supplemental Plan. However, you will be offered the option of enrolling in another plan.

Are you wondering how the SHP Standard Plan measures up when compared to other health insurance options available to you when you become eligible for Medicare? Refer to page 190 for a comparison table.

TRICARE for Life

If you are a military retiree or an eligible spouse or dependent of a military retiree and you have Medicare Part B, you should also be eligible for TRICARE For Life. TRICARE For Life acts as supplemental insurance to Medicare. If you have other insurance, such as the State Health Plan, TRICARE For Life will be the third payer after Medicare and the SHP. Please compare your benefits under TRICARE For Life and the SHP. For more information, call 866-773-0404 or visit www.tricare4u.com.

If you have TRICARE For Life and wish to drop your SHP coverage, you should submit an NOE form to EIP or send EIP a written request for cancellation. Please note that the TRICARE Supplement is no longer available once you are eligible for Medicare. However, your covered dependents may continue their coverage under the TRICARE Supplement by paying premiums to ASI as long as they remain eligible for TRICARE, up to age 65.

THE STATE HEALTH PLAN IN RETIREMENT

THE SHP STANDARD PLAN

The SHP Standard Plan offers worldwide coverage. It requires Medi-Call approval for inpatient hospital admissions; all maternity benefits (you must call in the first trimester); outpatient surgical services in a hospital or clinic; the purchase or rental of durable medical equipment; and skilled nursing care, hospice care and home healthcare. You must also call APS Healthcare, Inc., the SHP's behavioral health manager, for pre-authorization before you receive mental health or substance abuse care.

The plan has both deductibles and coinsurance. Once you become eligible for Medicare, the Standard Plan uses a carve-out method of claims payment, described on page 172.

HOW THE SHP STANDARD PLAN AND MEDICARE WORK TOGETHER

Using Medi-Call as a Retiree

Medicare has its own utilization review program. However, you will still need to call Medi-Call when Medicare benefits are exhausted for inpatient hospital services (including hospital admissions outside of the state or country), and for extended care services, such as skilled nursing facilities, private duty nursing, home healthcare, durable medical equipment and Veterans Administration hospital services.

Note: Any covered family members, who are not eligible for Medicare and have their claims processed under the SHP, must call Medi-Call. Please remember that while your physician or hospital may call Medi-Call for you, it is your responsibility to see that it is done.

SHP Hospital Network

When you are eligible for Medicare, Medicare is the primary payer, and you may go to any hospital you choose. Medicare limits the number of days it will cover for hospital stays. If you are enrolled in the Standard Plan and your hospital stay exceeds the number of days allowed under Medicare, it may be important to you that you are admitted to a hospital within the SHP network or BlueCard Program so that you will not be charged more than what the Standard Plan allows. *Note:* Mental health and substance abuse services are covered only at APS Healthcare, Inc., network facilities.

Refer to these pages for details about penalties for not calling Medi-Call or APS for pre-authorization.

- Medi-Call: page 32
- APS: page 49

You must also call Medi-Call for approval of any additional inpatient hospital days, beyond the number of days approved under Medicare, and for services related to home healthcare, hospice, durable medical equipment and Veterans Administration hospital services.

Private Duty Nursing if You Have Medicare

Medicare does not cover private duty nursing; however, the Standard Plan does cover medically necessary, intermittent private duty nursing services. The regular coinsurance rate applies for approved charges. Remember to call Medi-Call for private duty nursing services.

When Traveling Outside South Carolina

You are not generally covered outside the United States under Medicare. However, if you are enrolled in the Standard Plan, you have worldwide access to doctors and hospitals through the BlueCard program. If you are admitted to a hospital outside the state or the country as a result of an emergency, notify Medi-Call and follow the BlueCard guidelines. For more information, see page 29.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: Using APS as a Retiree

If you are eligible for Medicare and covered under the Standard Plan, you must call APS Healthcare, Inc., the SHP's behavioral health manager, at 800-221-8699 for approval of inpatient hospital stays. Pre-authorization and continued-stay authorizations by APS are required for inpatient care, including care in a Veterans Administration hospital. If your Medicare benefits are exhausted, you must call APS to receive authorization for continued benefits under the Standard Plan. To receive benefits, you must use an APS network provider.

Note: Any covered family members, who are not eligible for Medicare and have their claims processed under the SHP, must also call to register with APS and use an APS network provider.

Prescription Drug Program

The Standard Plan covers prescription drugs when purchased from a participating pharmacy. Please refer to page 45 for more information on the SHP Prescription Drug Program.

Ambulatory Surgical Center Network

These facilities provide some of the same services offered in the outpatient department of a hospital. If you are enrolled in Medicare, there is no need to call Medi-Call for pre-authorization, nor do you need to select a center that participates in the network.

Transplant Contracting Arrangements

As part of this network, you have access to the leading transplant facilities in-state and throughout the nation. If you are enrolled in Medicare, there is no need to call Medi-Call for pre-authorization, nor do you need to select a facility that participates in the network.

Mammography Testing Benefit

The SHP pays for routine mammograms for covered women ages 35-74. You may have one baseline mammogram if you are age 35-39, one routine mammogram every other year if you are age 40-49 and one routine mammogram every year if you are age 50-74. There is no charge if you use a facility that participates in the program's network.

Medicare allows yearly routine mammograms for women age 40 and older and pays 80 percent of Medicare-approved charges. Check with the testing facility to see if it accepts Medicare assignment.

Pap Test Program

The SHP will pay for a Pap test each year, without any requirement for a deductible or coinsurance, for covered women age 18 through 65. This benefit does not include the doctor's office visit or other lab tests. Medicare covers a Pap test, pelvic exam and clinical breast exam *every other year*. (If you are at high risk, you may have one yearly. Check with Medicare for more information.) Medicare pays 100 percent for the test, 80 percent for the exam and collection. Please note that the SHP Standard Plan will pay for Pap tests *every year*, so you may take advantage of this benefit in the years that Medicare does *not* pay.

Maternity Management and Well Child Care Benefits

The SHP offers two programs geared toward early detection and prevention of illness among children. The Maternity Management benefit helps mothers-to-be covered by the SHP receive necessary prenatal care. (This benefit applies to covered retirees and their spouses. It does not apply to dependent children.) Covered dependent children through age 12 are eligible for Well Child Care check-ups. On page 44 of the State Health Plan chapter is a schedule of routine immunizations for which the plan pays 100 percent when a network doctor provides the services. If your covered child has delayed, or missed, receiving immunizations at the recommended time, the plan will pay for "catch-up" immunizations through age 18, for the vaccines listed, and subject to the limitations outlined under "Well Child Care Benefits."

"CARVE-OUT" METHOD OF CLAIMS PAYMENT

The Standard Plan coordinates with Medicare on the basis of the SHP-approved charge. The carve-out method of claims payment works just like coordination of benefits with any other plan. When an individual is covered by two insurance plans, one pays first and the other pays second. If your provider accepts Medicare assignment, the Standard Plan will pay the lesser of:

- 1. The Medicare-allowed amount, minus the Medicare-reported payment or
- 2. The amount the plan would pay in the absence of Medicare, minus the Medicare-reported payment.

If your provider does not accept Medicare assignment, the Standard Plan pays the difference between the SHP's allowable charge and the amount Medicare reported paying. If the Medicare payment exceeds the SHP's allowable charge, the Standard Plan will not pay a benefit. The Standard Plan will never pay for charges that are more than the SHP's allowable charge. With the Standard Plan, your total benefits (Medicare plus the SHP) will be equivalent to those offered to active employees and to retirees not eligible for Medicare.

FILING CLAIMS AS A RETIREE

Medicare is your primary carrier. In most cases, your provider will file your Medicare claims for you.

Claims Filed in South Carolina

The Medicare claim should be filed first. Claims for Medicare-approved charges incurred in South Carolina should be transferred automatically from Medicare to the SHP for you. Your mental health and substance abuse provider should file claims for you with APS, including Medicare payment information. If you or your doctor have not received payment or notification from the SHP within 30 days after the Medicare payment is received, one of you must send BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina (BCBSSC), claims administrator for the SHP, a claim form and a copy of your Explanation of Medicare Benefits with your Benefits ID Number or Social Security Number written on it.

Claims Filed Outside South Carolina

If you receive services outside South Carolina, your provider will file the claim with the Medicare carrier in that state. If you or your doctor have not received payment or notification from the SHP within 30 days after the Medicare payment is received, one of you must send BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina (BCBSSC), third-party administrator for the SHP, a claim form and a copy of your Explanation of Medicare Benefits with your SHP Benefits ID Number or Social Security Number written on it.

If Medicare Denies Your Claim

If Medicare denies your claim, including denied Pap test claims, you are responsible for filing the denied claim to BCBSSC. You may use the same SHP claim form as active employees do. These forms are available from EIP or BCBSSC. You will need to attach your Explanation of Medicare Benefits and an itemized bill to your claim form.

Railroad Retirement Claims

If you receive benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), you must first file claims with the RRB. When you get an explanation of benefits, mail it, along with an itemized bill and claim form, to BCBSSC for processing.

THE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN

If you are a retiree enrolled in the Standard Plan or the Savings Plan and become eligible for Medicare due to your age, you will receive a letter from EIP stating that you will automatically be enrolled in the Medicare Supplemental Plan. If you prefer another health plan, you must inform EIP in writing.

If you are enrolled in a health plan offered through EIP, you may change to the Medicare Supplemental Plan within 31 days of eligibility for Medicare. During the yearly October enrollment period, you can change from the Standard Plan or an HMO available in the county in which you live, to the Medicare Supplemental Plan or vice versa. Plan changes are effective on January 1 after the enrollment period.

This section explains the SHP Medicare Supplemental Plan, which is available to retirees and covered dependents who are enrolled in both Parts A and B of Medicare. This plan coordinates benefits with the original Medicare Plan only. No benefits are provided for coordination with Medicare Advantage Plans. For more information, visit www.medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227.

General Information

The Medicare Supplemental Plan is similar to a Medigap policy—it "fills the gap" or pays the portion of Medicare-approved charges that Medicare does not, such as Medicare's deductibles and coinsurance. The Medicare Supplemental Plan payment is based on Medicare-approved charges. Except as specified on pages 175-176, non-covered Medicare charges will not be payable as benefits under the Supplemental Plan.

For example:

In an outpatient setting, such as an emergency room, Medicare does not cover drugs that a person usually administers to himself, such as pills. This means that if a patient receives pain pills in an emergency room, the hospital will bill him for the drugs. Because Medicare does not pay for the pills, the Medicare Supplemental Plan will not pay for them either.

If your medical provider does not accept Medicare assignment, and charges you more than what Medicare allows, you pay the difference.

Using Medi-Call

Medicare has its own utilization review program. You will need to call Medi-Call only when Medicare benefits are exhausted for inpatient hospital services and for extended care services, such as skilled nursing facilities, private duty nursing, home healthcare, durable medical equipment and Veterans Administration hospital services.

Note: Any covered family members who are not eligible for Medicare and have their claims processed under the SHP must call Medi-Call.

MEDICARE DEDUCTIBLES AND COINSURANCE

Deductibles

Medicare Part A has an inpatient hospital deductible for each *benefit period*. That deductible for 2007 is \$992. A Medicare benefit period begins the day you go to a hospital or skilled nursing facility and ends when you have not received any hospital or skilled care for 60 days in a row. If you go into the hospital after one benefit period has ended, a new benefit period begins. *The Medicare Supplemental Plan pays the Part A deductible*.

Medicare Part B has a deductible of \$131 a year in 2007. Part B also includes a standard monthly premium and covers physician services, supplies and outpatient care. Please contact Medicare for more information. As a retiree, you must enroll in Part B as soon as you are eligible for Medicare, because Medicare is your primary coverage. *The Medicare Supplemental Plan pays the Part B deductible*.

Coinsurance

Medicare Part B pays 80 percent of Medicare-approved charges (50 percent for outpatient mental healthcare). The Medicare Supplemental Plan pays the remaining 20 percent (50 percent for outpatient mental healthcare).

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN DEDUCTIBLES AND COINSURANCE

The Medicare Supplemental Plan benefit period is from January 1-December 31 and includes a \$200 deductible each calendar year that applies to private duty nursing services only. If you become eligible for Medicare and change to the Medicare Supplemental Plan during the year, you must meet a new \$200 deductible for private duty nursing services. You do not have to meet another \$200 deductible for private duty nursing services if you remain enrolled in the Standard Plan.

WHAT THE MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN COVERS

Hospital Admissions

The Medicare Supplemental Plan pays these expenses for Medicare-covered services after Medicare Part A benefits have been paid during a benefit period:

- The Medicare Part A hospital deductible.
- The coinsurance, after Medicare pays, for days 61-150 of hospitalization, up to the Medicare-approved charge (Medicare pays 100 percent for the first 60 days).
- 100 percent of the Medicare-approved charges for hospitalization beyond 150 days, if medically necessary (Medicare does not pay beyond 150 days.)*
- The coinsurance for durable medical equipment up to the Medicare-approved charge.

Additional Days in a Hospital

If you are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare is the primary payer, and you may go to any hospital you choose. However, Medicare pays nothing for hospital stays beyond 150 days.

If You Exceed the Number of Inpatient Hospital Days Allowed Under Medicare

If you are enrolled in the Medicare Supplemental Plan and you exhaust all Medicare-allowed inpatient hospital days, you must call Medi-Call for approval of any additional inpatient hospital days. If your extended stay is approved, the Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay for the Medicare-approved expenses. So, if you are enrolled in the Medicare Supplemental Plan and you expect your hospital stay may exceed the number of days allowed under Medicare, you should choose a hospital within the SHP network or BlueCard Program so that any additional days beyond what Medicare allows will be covered by the Medicare Supplemental Plan.

You must also call Medi-Call for services related to home healthcare, hospice, durable medical equipment and Veterans Administration hospital services.

Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay these benefits after Medicare has paid benefits during a benefit period:

- The coinsurance, after Medicare pays, up to the Medicare-approved charge for days 21-100 (Medicare pays 100 percent for the first 20 days)
- 100 percent of the Medicare-approved charges beyond 100 days in a skilled nursing facility if medically necessary (Medicare does not pay beyond 100 days.)* The maximum benefit per year is \$6,000.

Physician Charges

The Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay these benefits related to physician services approved by Medicare:

- The Medicare Part B deductible
- The coinsurance of the Medicare-approved charge for physician's services for surgery, necessary home and office visits, hospital visits and other covered physician's services
- The coinsurance for Medicare-approved charges for physician's services rendered in the outpatient department of a hospital for treatment of accidental injury, medical emergencies, minor surgery and diagnostic services.

^{*}Must call Medi-Call or APS for approval.

^{*}Must call Medi-Call for approval.

Home Healthcare

The Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay these benefits for medically necessary home healthcare services:

- The Medicare Part B deductible
- The coinsurance for any covered services or costs Medicare does not cover (Medicare pays 100 percent for Medicare-approved charges), up to 100 visits or \$5,000 per benefit year, whichever occurs first. The plan does not cover services provided by a person who ordinarily resides in the home, is a member of the family or a member of the family of the spouse of the covered person.
- 20 percent of Medicare-approved charges for durable medical equipment.

Private Duty Nursing Services

Private duty nursing services are services that are provided by a registered nurse (RN) or a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and that have been certified in writing by a physician as medically necessary. There is a \$200 annual deductible that applies, regardless of the time of year you enroll in the plan. Medicare does NOT cover this service. Once the deductible is met, the Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay 80 percent of covered charges for private duty nursing in a hospital or in the home. Coverage is limited to no more than three nurses per day, and the maximum annual benefit per year is \$5,000. The lifetime maximum benefit under the Medicare Supplemental Plan is \$25,000.

Prescription Drugs

The Medicare Supplemental Plan covers prescription drugs when purchased from a participating pharmacy under the SHP's Prescription Drug Program, managed by Medco. For more information, refer to pages 45-49.

When Traveling Outside the United States

Medicare does not cover services outside the United States. Since the Medicare Supplemental Plan does not allow benefits for services not covered by Medicare (other than private duty nursing), out-of-country services are not covered for Medicare Supplemental Plan subscribers.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

If your claims are processed under the Medicare Supplemental Plan, you are encouraged, but not required, to call APS, the SHP's behavioral health manager, because Medicare guidelines will apply. However, if you exhaust Medicare's allowed inpatient hospital days, you must call APS for approval of any additional inpatient hospital days, including those in Veterans Administration hospitals. However, you are not required to use an APS network provider.

Note: Any covered family members who are not eligible for Medicare and have their claims processed under the SHP must call to register with APS and must use an APS network provider.

Pap Test Benefit

If you are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare covers a Pap test, pelvic exam and clinical breast exam every other year. (These tests are covered yearly if you are at high risk. Check with Medicare for more information.) Medicare pays 100 percent for the Pap lab test; 80 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for the Pap test collection and the pelvic and breast exam. The Medicare Supplemental Plan pays the 20 percent coinsurance.

Please note that the Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay for a Pap test each year, without any requirement for a deductible or coinsurance, for covered women, age 18 through 65. You may take advantage of this benefit in the years that Medicare does *not* pay. The deductible and coinsurance do not apply to this benefit. This benefit does not include the doctor's office visit or other lab tests.

Medicare Assignment

If the provider accepts Medicare assignment, the provider accepts Medicare's payment plus the Medicare Supplemental Plan's payment as payment in full. If the provider does not accept Medicare assignment, the provider may charge more than what Medicare and the Medicare Supplemental Plan pay combined. You would pay the difference.

Example:

Medicare is primary. The bill is submitted to Medicare for a January hospital admission:

\$7,500 - 992 \$6,508	Hospital bill Medicare Part A deductible for 2007 Medicare payment
\$ 992	You pay (unless you have another health plan)

The Medicare Supplemental Plan will pay all Medicare deductibles and coinsurance:

\$ 992	Medicare Supplemental Plan pays Medicare Part A deductible
+6,508	Amount paid by Medicare
\$7,500	Bill paid in full

Filing Claims as a Retiree

If you are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare is your primary carrier. In most cases, your provider will file your Medicare claims for you.

Claims Filed Inside South Carolina

The Medicare claim should be filed first. Claims for Medicare-approved charges incurred in South Carolina should be transferred automatically from Medicare to the SHP for you. Your mental health and substance abuse provider should file claims to APS with Medicare payment information. If you or your doctor have not received payment or notification from the plan within 30 days after the Medicare payment is received, one of you must send BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina (BCBSSC), claims administrator for the SHP, a claim form and a copy of your Explanation of Medicare Benefits with your Benefits ID Number or Social Security Number written on it.

Claims for covered family members who are not eligible for Medicare, but who are insured through the Medicare Supplemental Plan, are paid according to the Standard Plan provisions. Remember that some services require pre-authorization by Medi-Call or APS Healthcare.

Claims Filed Outside South Carolina

If you receive services outside South Carolina, your provider will file its claim to the Medicare carrier in that state. When you receive your Explanation of Medicare Benefits, you must send it to BCBSSC for medical or surgical services or to APS for mental health and substance abuse services. You also must include a claim form and an itemized bill.

Medical Care Outside the United States and its Territories

Remember that the Medicare Supplemental Plan follows Medicare rules. Since Medicare does not provide coverage outside the U.S. and its territories, BlueCard Worldwide® coverage **is not** available to the Medicare Supplemental Plan subscribers.

Railroad Retirement Claims

If you receive benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), you must first file claims with the RRB. When you get an explanation of benefits from the RRB, mail it, along with an itemized bill and claim form, to BCBSSC for processing.

HMO PLANS IN RETIREMENT

This section explains some key distinctions of the health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and how they work together with Medicare. For a more complete overview of the plans, refer to the HMO section of this guide or contact the HMO.

An HMO typically does not cover care outside its network, except in an emergency. If it is important to you to use particular providers, including physicians and hospitals, it is best to check to see if those providers participate in the HMO you wish to join.

Remember, you must live in an HMO's service area to enroll. Not all HMOs are available in all South Carolina counties. A list of counties where each HMO is offered is on page 58.

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE

BlueChoice HealthPlan, CIGNA HMO and MUSC Options are available if you live in a county where they are offered. This section will focus on these plans.

Provider Networks

A traditional HMO provides a list of participating network doctors from which you choose a primary care physician. This doctor coordinates your care, which means you must contact him to be referred to specialists who also participate in the HMO's network. Network providers file the claims for you. If you belong to an HMO, the plan covers only medical services received from network providers. If you receive care outside the network, benefits are not paid. Typically, the only services you receive from out-of-network providers that most HMOs cover are those for medical emergencies.

When Traveling Outside the Network or the U.S.

When traveling outside the CIGNA, MUSC Options or BlueChoice HealthPlan networks, you will be covered for emergency medical care. If your insurance identification cards are not recognized by the treating hospital, you may be required to pay for the services, then later file a claim for reimbursement.

Prescription Drug Programs

The HMOs offered for 2007 include a prescription drug program with participating pharmacies.

HOW BLUECHOICE HEALTHPLAN AND MEDICARE WORK TOGETHER

BlueChoice HealthPlan pays only Medicare-approved charges. It supplements Medicare by paying the Medicare Part A (hospital) and Part B (medical) deductibles in full. The plan also pays the 20 percent coinsurance left after Medicare pays 80 percent for approved Part B services.

When you become eligible for Medicare, it is important to be enrolled in Part B if you are covered as a retiree or as a dependent of a retiree. Medicare becomes your primary insurance, and your health plan offered through EIP becomes the secondary payer. If you are not enrolled in Part B, your claims reimbursement will be limited for the Medicare Part B services you receive.

This plan pays the coinsurance for hospitalization after the first 60 days in a general hospital or after the first 20 days in a skilled nursing facility. (Medicare pays 100 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for the first 60

days in a general hospital and for the first 20 days of skilled nursing care.) BlueChoice HealthPlan also pays the Medicare coinsurance for days 21-100 for skilled nursing care.

If the provider accepts Medicare assignment, the provider will consider Medicare's payment plus BlueChoice HealthPlan's as payment in full. If the provider does not accept Medicare assignment, the provider may charge more than what Medicare and BlueChoice HealthPlan pay combined. The subscriber would pay the difference.

Example:

Medicare is primary. The bill is submitted to Medicare for a January hospital admission:

\$7,500 Hospital bill
- 992 Medicare Part A deductible for 2007
\$6,508 Medicare payment

\$ 992 You pay (unless you have other coverage)

BlueChoice HealthPlan pays all Medicare deductibles and coinsurance:

\$ 992 BlueChoice HealthPlan pays Medicare Part A deductible

 $\pm 6,508$ Amount paid by Medicare

\$7,500 Bill paid in full

If you are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare is your primary coverage. In most cases, your provider will file your Medicare claims for you. The Medicare claim should be filed first.

Additional information about BlueChoice HealthPlan is in the HMO chapter of this guide.

HOW CIGNA HMO AND MEDICARE WORK TOGETHER

CIGNA's HMO pays the lesser of the subscriber's unreimbursed allowable expense under Medicare or CIGNA's normal liability. If the balance due on the claim is less than the normal liability, then CIGNA will pay the balance due.

CIGNA's benefit credit saving provisions apply. A *benefit credit* is the portion of the claim that CIGNA does not have to pay as a result of a coordination of benefits with Medicare. It may be applied to future claims during the calendar year. *Benefit credit saving* is the difference between what CIGNA would normally be responsible for paying and CIGNA's actual payment. It applies only to the family member who incurs the charge, and it expires at the end of the calendar year in which it is gained. Contact CIGNA HealthCare for additional information.

Example:

Medicare is primary. The bill is submitted to Medicare for a January hospital admission:

\$7,500 Hospital bill

- 992 Medicare Part A deductible for 2007

\$6,508 Medicare payment

\$ 992 Balance due

If you are enrolled in CIGNA's HMO plan your claim will be paid like this:

\$7,500 Hospital bill

- 500 CIGNA's inpatient per occurrence copayment

\$7,000

x_80% CIGNA's coinsurance

\$5,600 CIGNA's liability in absence of Medicare

-<u>992</u> Amount paid by CIGNA in coordination with Medicare

\$4,608 Benefit credit savings with CIGNA

Filing Claims as a Retiree

If you are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare is your primary coverage. In most cases, your provider will file your Medicare claims for you. The Medicare claim should be filed first.

For more information, contact CIGNA.

HOW MUSC OPTIONS AND MEDICARE WORK TOGETHER

MUSC Options is available to Medicare recipients living in Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester counties. The health maintenance organization with a point of service option pays only Medicare-approved charges. It supplements Medicare by paying the Medicare Part A (hospital) and Part B (medical) deductibles in full. The plan also pays the 20 percent coinsurance left after Medicare pays 80 percent for Part B-approved services.

MUSC Options pays the coinsurance for hospitalization after the first 60 days in a general hospital or after the first 20 days in a skilled nursing facility. (Medicare pays 100 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for the first 60 days in a general hospital and for the first 20 days of skilled nursing care.) It also pays the Medicare coinsurance for days 21-100 for skilled nursing care.

If the provider accepts Medicare assignment, the provider will consider Medicare's payment plus MUSC Options' as payment in full. If the provider does not accept Medicare assignment, the provider may charge more than what Medicare and MUSC Options pay combined. The subscriber would pay the difference.

Example:

Medicare is primary. The bill is submitted to Medicare for a January hospital admission:

\$7,500 Hospital bill

- 992 Medicare Part A deductible for 2007

\$6,508 Medicare payment

\$ 992 You pay (unless you have other coverage)

MUSC Options pays all Medicare deductibles and coinsurance:

\$ 992 MUSC Options pays Medicare Part A deductible

+6,508 Amount paid by Medicare

\$7,500 Bill paid in full

If you are retired and enrolled in Medicare, Medicare is your primary coverage. In most cases, your provider will file your Medicare claims for you. The Medicare claim should be filed first.

Additional information about the MUSC Options plan is in the HMO chapter of this guide.

DENTAL BENEFITS

If you retire from a participating employer, you can continue your State Dental Plan and Dental Plus coverage, if you meet the eligibility requirements (see page 163). Coverage is not automatic. You must file a Notice of Election (NOE) with EIP within 31 days of your retirement date, the date your TERI plan ends or date of disability approval to maintain continuous coverage.

If you are not eligible for retiree insurance, you must request COBRA continuation coverage within 60 days of loss of coverage or notification of the right to continue coverage, whichever is later.

If you do not enroll within 31 days of your date of retirement, you may enroll during the next open enrollment period (October 2007). Coverage will be effective the following January 1. You also may enroll within 31 days of a special eligibility situation. For information on the State Dental Plan and Dental Plus, see pages 91-98.

LIFE INSURANCE

\$3,000 Basic Life Insurance

This benefit is given to you as an active employee and *ends* with retirement or when you leave your job for another reason. You may convert the \$3,000 Basic Life to an individual policy within 31 days of the date coverage ends. Contact your benefits office or EIP for additional information.

South Carolina Retirement Systems (SCRS) Retiree Group Life Insurance

As a retiree, if you die and your last employer before retirement participates in the Retiree Group Life Insurance program, a benefit, based on your retirement-credited service in the SCRS, will be paid by the SCRS to your beneficiaries as follows:

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10-19 years service credit=\$2,000 20-27 years service credit=\$4,000 28 or more years service credit=\$6,000

PORS

10-19 years service credit =\$2,000 20-24 years service credit=\$4,000 25 or more years service credit=\$6,000

OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

This is how you can carry your Optional Life Insurance into retirement through The Hartford:

- If you retired on or after January 1, 2001, you may continue your coverage in \$10,000 increments up to the final face value of coverage until age 75. At age 70, coverage is reduced for active employees and retirees.
- You may convert your Optional Life coverage to an individual policy.
- You may split your coverage between individual life insurance and term life insurance.

Retiree coverage does not include the Living Benefit Option, the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Option, the Travel Assistance Program or the EstateGuidancesm Program. To continue your coverage, you must complete the required enrollment forms within 31 days of your date of retirement. If you are leaving employment due to a disability and are continuing Optional Life coverage under the 12-month waiver provision, you must file for continuation within 31 days of the end of the 12-month waiver. If you have questions about continuing your coverage as a retiree, contact your benefits office or EIP.

If you participate in the Teacher and Employee Retention Incentive (TERI) program, you can continue your benefits as an active employee, provided you are eligible. When the TERI period ends you must file for retiree benefits within 31 days as indicated above.

If you return to work as a full-time, active employee with a participating employer, you must choose whether to enroll in Optional Life insurance coverage as an active employee or to continue your retiree coverage. If you refuse to enroll as an active employee, you also refuse the \$3,000 Basic Life benefit, and Optional and/or Dependent Life coverage. Your active group coverage will become effective only if you discontinue the retiree continuation coverage.

Premiums are on pages 207-210.

Optional Life if You Become Disabled

If you become totally disabled while covered as an active employee, your life insurance will be continued for up to 12 months from the last day you are physically at work, provided:

- Your total disability began while you were covered by this Optional Life Insurance plan
- Your total disability began before you reached age 69 and
- The group Optional Life Insurance policy does not end.

Refer to pages 99-119 for more information about Life Insurance.

Your premiums will be waived for up to 12 months from the last day you were physically at work as long as you are totally disabled. The 12-month waiver period begins the first of the month following your last day physically at work. For your premiums to be waived, you must provide proof of disability to your benefits administrator within one year after the last day you were physically at work. If you return to work during the 12-month waiver period and work one full week, the premium waiver period should end. If you must leave employment again due to total disability, the 12-month waiver will start over from the last day you were physically at work.

When the waiver ends, you must file for continuation through The Hartford within 31 days of the date the waiver ends. Contact your benefits office for additional information.

The Pretax Group Insurance Premium Feature, the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Option, the Living Benefit Option, the Travel Assistance Program and the EstateGuidancesm Program do not apply to retirees.

DEPENDENT LIFE INSURANCE

Any Dependent Life Insurance coverage you have will end when you leave active employment. Your covered dependent may convert the insurance coverage to an individual policy. The dependent must apply to The Hartford, in writing, within 31 days of the date of coverage ends and pay the required premiums.

LONG TERM DISABILITY

Disability insurance protects an employee and his family from loss of income due to an injury or an extended illness that prevents the employee from working. When you leave active employment and retire, your Basic and Supplemental Long Term Disability end.

Basic Long Term Disability

This benefit may not be continued or converted to an individual policy.

Supplemental Long Term Disability

Generally, you may not continue Supplemental Long Term Disability coverage in retirement. However, if you are retiring or leaving employment, but plan to work for an employer that does not have a supplemental long term disability program, contact Standard Insurance Company for more information about continuing coverage.

LONG TERM CARE

Long Term Care (LTC) refers to a wide range of personal healthcare services for people of all ages who suffer from chronic conditions. These individuals need assistance with day-to-day activities, such as bathing, eating, continence, toileting, transferring and/or dressing or supervision due to cognitive impairment, such as Alzheimer's disease. Care can be provided in a nursing home, in an assisted living facility, at home or in the community, such as in an adult day care center.

Long Term Care Services Already Covered

Medicare covers some home healthcare and skilled nursing facility services. However, there are limits on the dollar amounts paid and the number of visits allowed. Neither the SHP nor Medicare covers custodial care services. To qualify for Medicaid, you must exhaust most of your assets and income.

Continuing Coverage Into Retirement

If you are enrolled in LTC when you retire, your coverage will be continued. Coverage will also continue for any family member covered when you retire. You will receive a letter regarding continuation of your LTC insurance, which you will need to sign and return to EIP.

Enrolling in Coverage at Retirement

You and/or your spouse/surviving spouse may enroll in LTC at any time by providing medical evidence of good health. Ask Aetna or EIP for information and an application. If you are approved for coverage, Aetna will send confirmation to you and to EIP.

Premiums

You pay the entire cost of LTC coverage for yourself and your spouse, if he or she is enrolled. Premiums will be based on your age at the time of your application. (Some exceptions may apply.) Premiums may be found on pages 204-206. EIP will deduct the premiums from your monthly SCRS check. However, if the amount is not enough to cover your health, dental and LTC premiums, EIP will bill you directly for LTC premiums. Local subdivision retirees will be billed by the local subdivision. You may also request in writing to have your premiums drafted from your bank account.

MONEYPLU\$

MoneyPlu\$ is not available in retirement.

THE VISION CARE PROGRAM

This discount program is available to all retirees, as well as to all full-time and part-time employees, dependents, survivors and COBRA subscribers. Please refer to pages 19-20 for more information.

Returning to Work

Deciding on Coverage

If you are covered under the retiree group insurance program and return to active employment in a permanent, full-time position, you must decide whether to be covered under the active group employee benefits or to continue your retiree group benefits. You cannot be covered under both. If you prefer to continue your retiree group insurance benefits, you must complete and sign an Active Group Benefits Refusal form. Remember, if you refuse to enroll as an active employee, you are also refusing benefits that are available to active employees only:

- \$3,000 Basic Life benefit
- Basic and Supplemental Long Term Disability coverage
- Dependent Life Insurance
- Optional Life Insurance
- MoneyPlu\$ benefits.

Note: If you carried your Optional Life coverage into retirement and/or converted your Dependent Life coverage, and are billed by The Hartford, you must decide if you want coverage as a retiree or as an active employee. You cannot have both.

If You Are Enrolled in Medicare

If you are enrolled in Medicare and return to active employee benefits, Medicare will become the secondary payer to the active group coverage. Therefore, you must notify Social Security that you are covered under the active group, and you may elect to drop Medicare Part B while you are covered as an active employee. When you leave active employment and your active group coverage ends, you may return to retiree group coverage. You must file an enrollment form to return to the state retiree group. In addition, you must notify Social Security that you are no longer covered under an active group so that you can re-enroll in Medicare Part B.

TERI PROGRAM

How TERI Affects Your Insurance Coverage

If you are participating in the TERI program, you continue your insurance coverage under the **active** group insurance program as long as you are eligible. At the end of your TERI period, you must file for continuation of coverage as a retiree within 31 days. For more information on the TERI program, contact SCRS.

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Comparison of Health Plans for R

	High Deduc	tible Health Plan	Preferred Pro	ovider Organization	
Туре	Once the deductible has been met, other benefits are paid at the same level as the SHP Standard Plan.		To receive the higher level of benefits, subscribers should choose a network provider.		
Plan	SHP Sa	avings Plan	SHP St	tandard Plan	
Availability	Covera	ge worldwide	Covera	age worldwide	
Annual Deductible Single Family	\$3,000 \$6,000¹		\$350 \$700		
Hospitalization/ Emergency Care	No per-occurrence deductibles or copays		de Emergency care	tal: \$75 per-occurrence eductible e: \$125 per-occurrence eductible	
Coinsurance	In-network Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	<u>Out-of-network</u> Plan pays 60% You pay 40%	<u>In-network</u> Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	Out-of-network Plan pays 60% You pay 40%	
Coinsurance Maximum Single Family	\$2,000 \$4,000 (excludes deductibles)	\$4,000 \$8,000 (excludes deductibles)	\$2,000 \$4,000 (excludes deductibles)	\$4,000 \$8,000 (excludes deductibles)	
	Chiropractic benefits limited to \$500 a year, per person, after deductible		\$10 per-visit deductible, then:		
Physicians Office Visits	Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	Plan pays 60% You pay 40%	Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	Plan pays 60% You pay 40%	
Prescription Drugs	Participating pharmacies and mail order only: You pay 100% of the plan's allowable charge until the annual deductible is met. Afterward, the plan will reimburse 80% of the allowable charge. The remaining 20 percent will be credited to your coinsurance maximum.		\$10 generic, \$ \$40 non- Mail order (up \$25 generic, \$62 pr prefe	macies only (up to 31-day supply): \$25 preferred brand, preferred brand p to 90-day supply): referred brand, \$100 non-erred brand max: \$2,500	
Mental Health/ Substance Abuse	Participating providers only. Call 800-221-8699. Subject to above deductibles and coinsurance.		8699. Subject to	iders only. Call 800-221- above deductibles and nsurance.	
	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000		

If more than one family member is covered, no family members will receive benefits, other than preventive, until the \$6,000 annual family ded ² There is no outpatient facility copay for services performed at a Medical University of South Carolina outpatient facility.

Please Note: This chart is just a summary of your benefits. Please consult the Retirees/Disability Retirees and health plan chapters for details.

etirees NOT Eligible for Medicare

Tradition	HMO with a Po		
All care must be directed by a primary care physician (PCP) and approved by the HMO.		Option (POS) Medically necessary benefits are available out- of-network at a lower benefit.	
BlueChoice HealthPlan	CIGNA HMO	MUSC (Options
Available in all counties in South Carolina	Available in all S.C. counties, except : Abbeville, Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick and Saluda	Available in thes Berkeley, Charleston, C	
\$250 \$500 (Does not apply to copays)	None	<u>In-network</u> None	<u>Out-of-network</u> \$500 \$1,500
Inpatient: \$200 copay Outpatient: \$75 copay/first 3 visits Emergency care: \$100 copay HMO pays 90% after copays and deductible. You pay 10% \$35 Urgent care copay, then HMO pays 100%	Inpatient: \$500 copay Outpatient facility: \$250 copay Emergency care: \$100 copay	Inpatient: \$300 copay Outpatient facility: \$100² copay Emergency care: \$150 copay \$50 Urgent care copay	HMO pays 60% after annual deductible You pay 40%
HMO pays 90% after deductible and copays You pay 10%	HMO pays 80% after copays You pay 20%	HMO pays 100% after copays	HMO pays 60% after deductible You pay 40%
\$1,500 \$3,000 (excludes deductibles)	\$2,000 \$4,000 (includes inpatient, outpatient, copays and coinsurance)	N/A	\$3,000 \$9,000 (excludes deductibles)
\$15 PCP copay \$15 OB/GYN well woman exam \$30 specialist copay	\$20 PCP copay \$40 OB/GYN exam \$40 specialist copay	\$25 personal physician copay \$25 OB/GYN well woman exam - 2 per benefit period \$55 specialist copay with or without referral	HMO pays 60% of allowance after annual deductible You pay 40% No preventive care benefits out-of-network
Participating pharmacies only (up to 31-day supply): \$8 generic, \$30 preferred brand, \$50 non-preferred brand, \$75 specialty pharmaceuticals Mail order (up to 90-day supply): \$16 generic, \$60 preferred brand, \$100 non-preferred brand	Participating pharmacies only (up to 30-day supply): \$7 generic, \$25 preferred brand, \$50 non-preferred brand Mail order (up to 90-day supply): \$14 generic, \$50 preferred brand, \$100 non-preferred brand	Participating pharmacies only \$100 deductlble, then (up to 30-day supply): \$10 generic, \$30 preferred brand, \$50 non-preferred brand \$100 specialty pharmaceuticals Mail order (up to 90-day supply): \$25 generic, \$75 preferred brand; \$125 non-preferred brand \$250 specialty pharmaceuticals	
Participating providers only. Call 800- 969-1032 Inpatient: \$200 copay, then 90% covered Outpatient: \$30 specialist copay	Participating providers only. Inpatient: \$500 copay, then 80% covered Outpatient: \$40 specialist copay	CBA must pre- authorize inpatient and outpatient \$55 outpatient copay	HMO pays 60% of allowance after annual deductible is paid
\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	

uctible is met.

Comparison of Health Plans for Retir

Plan	SHP Savings Plan	SHP Standard Plan	
Inpatient Hospital Days¹	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call required)	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call required)	
Skilled Nursing Care	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% up to \$6,000 or 60 days, whichever is less (Medi-Call required)	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% up to \$6,000 or 60 days, whichever is less (Medi-Call required)	
Private Duty Nursing	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call required)	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call required)	
Home Healthcare	\$5,000 or 100 visits, whichever is less, if Medi-Call approved	\$5,000 or 100 visits, whichever is less, if Medi-Call approved	
Hospice Care	\$6,000 lifetime maximum, including \$200 bereavement counseling	\$6,000 lifetime maximum, including \$200 bereavement counseling	
Durable Medical Equipment	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call required)	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call required)	
Routine Mammography Screening	Ages 35-74 in participating facilities only; guidelines apply	Ages 35-74 in participating facilities only; guidelines apply	
Pap Test	Ages 18-65 Routine or diagnostic	Ages 18-65 Routine or diagnostic	
Ambulance	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum for emergency transport	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum for emergency transport	
Eyeglasses/Hearing Aid	None, except for prosthetic lenses from cataract surgery Discount under the Vision Care Program	None, except for prosthetic lenses from cataract surgery Discount under the Vision Care Program	

¹Semi-private room and board, physician/surgeon charges, operating/delivery room and recovery room general nursing and miscellaneous hosp

ees NOT Eligible for Medicare (cont.)

BlueChoice HealthPlan	CIGNA HMO	MUSC O	ptions
Plan pays 90% You pay 10% with a \$200 copay and coinsurance	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with \$500 copay and coinsurance maximum	In-network Plan pays 100% You pay \$300 copay	Out-of-network Plan pays 60% You pay 40% Subject to deductible
Plan pays 90% You pay 10% up to 120 days	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% up to 180 days	Plan pays 100% up to \$6,000 or 60 days, whichever is less, per benefit period	Plan pays 60% You pay 40% Subject to deductible
Plan pays 90% You pay 10% up to 60 days	Plan pays 100%	Plan pays 100%	Covered in- network only
Plan pays 90% You pay 10%	Plan pays 100% up to 60 visits	Plan pays 100% up to \$5,000 or 100 visits, whichever is less, per benefit period	Plan pays 60% You pay 40% Subject to deductible
Plan pays 90% You pay 10%	Not included	Plan pays 100% \$6,000 lifetime maxi- mum	Plan pays 60% You pay 40% Subject to deductible
\$5,000 maximum Plan pays 90% You pay 10%	\$3,500 maximum Plan pays 100%	Plan pays 100%	Covered in- network only
Plan pays 100%; guidelines apply	Plan pays 100%	Plan pays 100%	Covered in- network only
Routine: any age; 2 per year; \$15 copay Diagnostic: copay/coinsurance	Plan pays 100% You pay \$40 copay	Routine: \$25 copay Diagnostic: \$55 copay	Covered in- network only
Plan pays 90% You pay 10%	Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	Plan pays 100%	Plan pays 60% You pay 40% Subject to deductible
One exam for glasses or contacts per year (\$45 copay for contacts exam). One pair glasses every other year (from designated selection)	One exam every two years (\$10 copay) Must use a participating provider	Plan pays up to \$75 for once per ber Plan pays up to \$75 for other bene	efit period eyewear once every

ital services and supplies.

Comparison of Health Plan Benefits for Retirees

			1	
			PP	0
Туре			To receive a high efits, subscribers s in-network	should choose an
Plan	Medicare	Medicare Supplemental	SHP Stand	dard Plan
Availability	United States (Contact Medicare for information about any services outside of the United States)	Same as Medicare	Coverage v	vorldwide
Cancellation Policy	None	Cancelled upon request or for non- payment of premiums	Cancelled upon re payment of	
Annual Deductible	Part A: \$992 (per benefit period) Part B: \$131	Pays Medicare Part A and Part B deductibles	\$350 (s \$700 (fa Carve-out me	amily)
Per-occurrence Deductible	Inpatient hospital: Part A deductible (\$992 per benefit period)	Pays Medicare Part A deductible (Call Medi-Call for hospital stays over 150 days, skilled nursing, private duty nursing, home healthcare, durable medical equipment and VA hospital services)	Outpatient hospita Emergency care ible (Call Medi-C stays over 150 da ing, private duty healthcare, durabl ment and VA hos	e: \$125 deduct- Call for hospital ays, skilled nurs- nursing, home e medical equip-
Coinsurance	Part A: 100% Part B: 80% (You pay 20%)	Pays Part B coinsurance of 20%	Carve-out me Plan allov	
Coinsurance Maximum	None	None	In-network \$2,000 (single) \$4,000 (family)	Out-of-network \$4,000 (single) \$8,000 (family)
			Excludes d	eductible
Physician Visits	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% Routine annual physicals and OB/ GYN exams not covered	Plan pays Part B coinsurance of 20%	Carve-out method per-occurrence of allows 80% in 60% out-of Well Child Care with items and at 1 through a	leductible; Plan in-network, f-network visits and immu- 100% in-network
Prescription Drugs	Covered under Medicare Part D. However, subscribers to health plans offered through the Employee Insur- ance Program have creditable cover- age and therefore do not need to sign up for Part D.	Participating pharmacies only (up to 31-day supply): \$10 generic \$25 preferred brand \$40 non-preferred brand Mail-order (up to 90-day supply): \$25 generic \$62 preferred brand \$100 non-preferred brand Copay max: \$2,500	Participating pharmacies only (up to 31-day supply): \$10 generic \$25 preferred brand \$40 non-preferred brand Mail-order (up to 90-day supply): \$25 generic \$62 preferred brand \$100 non-preferred brand Copay max: \$2,500	
Mental Health/ Substance Abuse	Inpatient: Plan pays 100% for days 1-60 (Part A deductible applies); You pay \$248/day for days 61-90; You pay \$496/day for days 91-150 (subject to 60 lifetime reserve days); You pay all costs after 150 days. Outpatient: Plan pays 50% (Part B deductible applies)	Inpatient: Plan pays Medicare deductible; \$248 coinsurance for days 61-90; \$496 coinsurance for days 90-150; 100% after 150 days (APS approval required). Outpatient: Plan pays Medicare deductible, 50% coinsurance	Carve-out me Plan allows 80 (APS participating hospital stay exc	% in-network providers only if
Lifetime Maximum	None	\$1,000,000	\$1,000),000

and Dependents Eligible for Medicare

Tradition		of Service Option OS)	
All care must be directed by a primary care p		benefits are available t a lower benefit.	
BlueChoice HealthPlan CIGNA HMO		MUSC Options	
Available in all South Carolina counties	Available in all S.C. counties, except : Abbeville, Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick and Saluda	Available in the following S.C. counties: Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorcheste	
Cancelled upon request or for non-payment of premiums	Cancelled upon request or for non-payment of premiums		st or for non-payment of niums
Pays Medicare Part A and Part B deductibles	No deductible; Pays lesser of unreimbrused Medicare-allowed expenses or plan's normal allowance		Part A and Part B ctibles
Pays Medicare Part A deductible	Inpatient: \$500 copay Outpatient facility: \$250 copay Emergency care: \$100 copay	Pays Medicare I	Part A deductible
Pays Part B coinsurance of 20%	Plan pays 80% or unreimbursed Medicare- allowed expenses.	Pays Part B coinsurance of 20%	
None	\$2,000 (single) \$4,000 (family) (excludes certain copays)	<u>In-network</u> None	Out-of-network \$3,000 (single) \$9,000 (family) (excludes deductibles)
Plan pays Part B coinsurance of 20%	\$20 PCP copay \$40 OB/GYN exam \$40 specialist copay Plan pays 80% or unreimbursed Medicare- allowed expenses	Plan pays Part B coinsurance of 20%	HMO pays 60% of allowance after annual deductible You pay 40% No preventive care benefits out-of-network
Participating pharmacies only (up to 30-day supply): \$8 generic \$30 preferred brand \$50 non-preferred brand \$75 specialty pharmaceuticals Mail order (up to 90-day supply): \$16 generic \$60 preferred brand \$100 non-preferred brand	Participating pharmacies only (up to 30-day supply): \$7 generic \$25 preferred brand \$50 non-preferred brand Mail-order (up to 90-day supply): \$14 generic \$50 preferred brand \$100 non-preferred brand No copay max	Participating pharmacies only \$100 deductible, then (up to 30-day supply): \$10 generic, \$30 preferred brand \$125 specialty pharmaceuticals Mail order (up to 90-day supply): \$25 generic \$75 preferred brand \$125 non-preferred brand \$250 specialty pharmaceuticals	
Inpatient: Plan pays Medicare deductible; \$248 coinsurance for days 61-90; \$496 coinsurance for days 91-150; 100% beyond 150 days Outpatient: Plan pays Medicare deductible, 50% coinsurance	Participating providers only: \$40 copay per office visit Inpatient: \$500 copay per admission Plan pays 80% of unreimbursed Medicare- allowed expenses	Inpatient: Plan pays Medicare deductible; \$248 coinsurance for days 61-90; \$496 coinsurance for days 91-150; 100% beyond 150 days Outpatient: Plan pays Medicare deductible, 50% coinsurance	
\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,00	0,000

Comparison of Health Plan Benefits for Retirees

	1		
Plan	Medicare	Medicare Supplemental	SHP Standard Plan
Inpatient Hospital Days	Plan pays 100% for days 1-60 (Part A deductible applies); You pay \$248/day for days 61-90; You pay \$496 for days 91-150 (subject to 60 lifetime reserve days); You pay all costs beyond 150 days	Plan pays: Medicare deductible; \$248 coinsurance for days 61-90; \$496 coinsurance for days 91-150; 100% beyond 150 days (Medi-Call approval required)	Carve-out method applies Plan allows 80% (Call Medi-Call if hospital stay exceeds 150 days)
Skilled Nursing Care	Plan pays 100% for days 1-20; You pay \$124 for days 21-100	Plan pays \$119 for days 21-100; Plan pays 100% beyond 100 days (Medi-Call approval required) up to \$6,000 or 60 days, whichever is less	Carve-out method applies Plan allows 80%, up to \$6,000 or 60 days, whichever is less. (Call Medi-Call if hospital stay exceeds 100 days)
Private Duty Nursing	Not covered	\$200 annual deductible Plan pays 80% if Medi-Call approved You pay 20% \$5,000 annual maximum \$25,000 lifetime maximum	Plan pays 80% You pay 20% with coinsurance maximum (Medi-Call approval required)
Home Healthcare	Plan pays 100%	Medi-Call available to assist with referrals Up to \$5,000 or 100 visits, whichever is less	Carve-out method applies Plan allows 80% You pay 20% up to \$5,000 or 100 visits, whichever is less
Hospice Care	Plan pays 100%	Medi-Call available to assist with referrals	Medi-Call available to assist with referrals
Durable Medical Equipment	Plan pays 80% (Medicare approval required) You pay 20%	Plan pays 20% coinsurance (Medi-Call required)	Carve-out method applies Plan allows 80% (Medi-Call approval required)
Routine Mammography Screening	Age 40 and older, one every year Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	Plan pays 20% coinsurance	Ages 35-74 in participating facilities only; guidelines apply
Pap Test	Routine every two years (yearly if high risk) Plan pays 100% for Pap test Plan pays 80% for exam	Plan pays 20% coinsurance. Otherwise, plan pays yearly for one routine Pap test for covered women ages 18-65. Diagnostic only age 66 and older.	Routine yearly ages 18-65; Diagnostic only age 66 and older; Plan allows 100% for Pap test (carve-out applies when Medicare pays)
Ambulance	Plan pays 80% You pay 20%	Plan pays 20% coinsurance	Carve-out method applies Plan allows 80%
Eyeglasses/ Hearing Aid	None, except for prosthetic lenses from cataract surgery. Discount under the Vision Care Program	None, except for prosthetic lenses from cataract surgery. Discount under the Vision Care Program	None, except for prosthetic lenses from cataract surgery. Discount under the Vision Care Program

Please note: This chart is just a summary of your benefits. Please consult the retiree and health plan chapters for details.

and Dependents Eligible for Medicare (cont.)

BlueChoice HealthPlan	CIGNA HMO	MUSC Options
Plan pays: Medicare deductible; \$248 coinsurance for days 61-90; \$496 coinsurance for days 91-150; 100% beyond 150 days	Plan pays 80% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses after \$500 copay	Plan pays: Medicare deductible; \$248 coinsurance for days 61-90; \$496 coinsurance for days 91-150; 100% beyond 150 days
Plan pays \$124 for days 21-100; Plan pays 100% beyond 100 days (limited to 120 days)	Plan pays 80% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses, up to 180 days	Plan pays \$124 for days 21-100; Plan pays 100% beyond 100 days (limited to 120 days)
Plan pays 80%; You pay 20% and \$200 annual deductible \$5,000 annual maximum \$25,000 lifetime maximum (limited to 120 days)	Plan pays 100%	Plan pays 80%; You pay 20% and \$200 annual deductible \$5,000 annual maximum \$25,000 lifetime maximum (limited to 120 days)
(Medicare pays 100% of covered charges)	Plan pays 100% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses, up to 60 visits	(Medicare pays 100% of covered charges)
(Medicare pays 100% of covered charges)	Plan pays 100% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses	(Medicare pays 100% of covered charges)
Plan pays 20% coinsurance	\$3,500 maximum Plan pays 100% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses	Plan pays 20% coinsurance
Plan pays 20% coinsurance	Plan pays 100% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses	Plan pays 20% coinsurance
Plan pays 20% coinsurance. Otherwise, pays routine OB/GYN exam two times per year after \$15 copay. Diagnostic: copay/coinsurance	Plan pays 100% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses after \$25 copay	Plan pays 20% coinsurance. Otherwise, pays routine OB/GYN exam after \$25 copay. Diagnostic: \$55 copay
Plan pays 20% coinsurance	Plan pays 90% or unreimbursed Medicare-allowed expenses	Plan pays 20% coinsurance
One exam for glasses or contacts per year (\$45 copay for contacts exam). One pair of glasses every other year (from designated selection)	One exam every two years (\$10 copay) Must use a participating provider	One exam for glasses or contacts per year (\$45 copay for contacts exam). One pair of glasses every other year (from designated selection)